

# POWER SHARING BETWEEN PORTABLE COMPUTER SYSTEM AND PERIPHERAL DEVICES

## ABSTRACT

5 A method and apparatus that allows for controlling operating time of a portable  
computer system and a peripheral device. A portable computing system that includes  
a rechargeable power supply and that includes a connection mechanism for coupling  
to a peripheral device is used to control operating time of the portable computer  
system and the peripheral device. In one embodiment, a user can choose between  
10 maximizing the operating time of the portable computer, maximizing the operating time  
of the peripheral device, or maximizing the life of the entire system (maximizing the  
operating time of the portable computer system and the peripheral device). When  
operating time of the portable computer system is to be maximized, power is sent from  
the peripheral device to the portable computer system to extend the operating time of  
15 the portable computer system. Similarly, when operating time of the peripheral device  
is to be maximized, power is sent from the rechargeable power supply of the portable  
computer system to the peripheral device to extend the operating time of the  
peripheral device. When operating time of the entire system is to be maximized, power  
is moved such that the operating time for the portable computer system is equal to the  
20 operating time of the peripheral device.